

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 CU-04 OMB-01

AID-20 DRC-01 /090 W

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R 200920Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6256

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2431

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY

REF CAIRO 2416 (NOTAL)

1. APRIL 18 ATTACK ON MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY (REFTEL)
BY MEMBERS OF "SECRET ORGANIZATION" CAPTURES HEADLINES
OF APRIL 20 CAIRO PRESS. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS OF CASE
RELEASED BY STATE SECURITY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE:

A. ATTACK OCCURRED AT 1:00 AM BY TWENTY ARMED MEN, WHO
CLASHED WITH ACADEMY GUARD FORCE. IN ENSUING FIGHT
11 PERSONS WERE KILLED, INCLUDING 6 GUARDS AND ONE
ACADEMY STUDENT; 27 WERE INJURED.

B. LEADER OF ATTACK WAS CAPTURED AND SUBJECTED TO INTERROGATION.
LATTER REVEALED THAT HE WAS PALESTINIAN BEARING IRAQI
PASSPORT WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN MEMBER OF SEVERAL ARAB
ORGANIZATIONS OF "VARIOUS LEANINGS", INCLUDING COMMUNIST
PARTY OF JORDAN, MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD, JORDAN-BASED ISLAMIC
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LIBERATION PARTY, AND SEVERAL PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS.

C. LEADER HAD BEEN REFUGEE IN IRAQ IN 1960 WHERE HE HAD JOINED IRAQI GROUP ENGAGED IN POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS. IN 1972 HE ATTEMPTED TO MEET WITH MOSLEM BROTHERS UNDER PRETEXT THAT HE WAS REORGANIZING IT (SIC), BUT FAILED IN THIS. ABOUT THE SAME TIME, HE JOINED ONE OF ARAB LEAGUE ORGANIZATIONS, THEREBY PERMITTING HIM TO TRAVEL FREELY.

D. AT THE END OF 1973 HE TRAVELED TO LIBYA "AT THE INVITATION OF ITS GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF FORMING RESISTANCE UNITS WITHIN THE ARAB COUNTRIES AND ARRANGING THEIR FINANCING. DURING HIS STAY THERE HE HELD MEETINGS WITH LIBYAN OFFICIALS AND LISTENED TO ATTACKS ON EGYPT'S POLICY FROM THEM".

E. GROUP LEADER ADMITTED TO FORMING HIS SECRET ORGANIZATION AND TO RECRUITING ITS MEMBERS FROM STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITIES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS "USING RELIGION AS A COVER". HE ALSO ADMITTED TO HAVING PERPETRATED ATTACK ON ACADEMY AFTER HAVING RECRUITED A LIMITED NUMBER OF ITS STUDENTS, AND TO HAVING PLANNED A NUMBER OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS.

2. STATE SECURITY INVESTIGATION INTO CASE IS CONTINUING "TO UNCOVER THE PURPOSES OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE DIMENSIONS OF THE INCIDENT".

3. COMMENT: COVERAGE OF EVENT IS MOST EXTENSIVE GIVEN TO ANY INTERNAL SECURITY MATTER SINCE ANTI-SADAT MOVEMENT MAY, 1971. ONE DAY AFTER INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF OCCURENCE, IN WHICH NO DEATHS WERE MENTIONED, GOE NOW APPEARS TO BE FOLLOWING POLICY OF RELEASING AS MANY DETAILS AS POSSIBLE. ONE REASON IS THAT ATTACK ON ACADEMY WOULD HAVE BECOME MAJOR SOURCE OF DAMAGING RUMORS, NOT LEAST OF WHICH WOULD BE THOSE SUGGESTING A BROADLY-BASED ANTI-SADAT COUP ATTEMPT ORIGINATING WITHIN THE MILITARY. MATTER IS NOW PORTRAYED AS ONE INVOLVING HIRED KILLER DIRECTED EXTERNALLY FROM LIBYA.
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